



New Judge Profile

Jayme Sullivan

Canyon County Magistrate Judge

September 7, 2012

Full time judge, full time wife and mother, sports activist ... from alarm clock to dusk, Magistrate Jayme Sullivan is the epitome of, “Yes, you CAN have it all.” Everything but spare time that is. With all the daily commotion in her life it is no wonder that the most challenging part about her transition to the bench has been training herself to respond when someone says, “Hey Judge!” Bet she does not hear that much at home.

Judge Sullivan, newly appointed Magistrate in Canyon County for the Third Judicial District, confesses that she stood for some time when the clerk announced a recess before realizing that the courtroom was standing up and waiting for her to leave the courtroom. Inspired by Harper Lee and “To Kill a Mockingbird” to study law, Judge Sullivan named her first born Atticus.

She credits her parents with teaching her to keep an even keel in turbulence and to stay focused despite the many temptations of distraction. However it was a previous supervisor who instilled in her rules she lives by: 1. Show Up. 2. Look Good. 3. Play Hurt. 4. Never Give Up. Judge Sullivan finds these guidelines have served her well in both her professional and private life.

Although Judge Sullivan loves the pulse and energy that accompany a large and busy docket, she finds many challenges in being a trial judge. “Balancing the cases, the attorneys, the interpreters, the jail, and the parties is analogous to trying to coach a peewee football team while conducting a symphony,” she laughs. And though Judge Sullivan may not have yet conducted a symphony, she has plenty of experience in the sports arena.

Judge Sullivan grew up in rural Ohio, surrounded by soybean fields and corn an hour drive to the capital, Columbus. Her mother was a school teacher; her father a computer programmer. An only child, Judge Sullivan love to read and to be outside. Still claiming to be more of a book person than a movie person, Judge Sullivan admits that with two year old twins she is confined to reading the back of a Cheerios box. She states she is up on their “Klipper” videos, however.

Judge Sullivan remains physically active, and we are not talking chasing children. She grew up playing tennis and swimming. Living far from town, she would ride her bike when she was older to the swimming pool over twenty miles each way. Judge Sullivan credits these activities with

leading her to an interest in triathlons. However, she still loves to garden and cook, and if she had not become a lawyer and a judge she states she likely would have become a chef ... or a Spanish teacher ... or a geologist. Yes, you really can have it all; except for that “spare time” remember?

Judge Sullivan has an example of how you get that too. She relates that when the family visits her parents in Ft. Myers, Florida, her and her husband make a point of leaving the boys with their grandparents during naptime, no matter when naptime may occur, so they are able to make the 45 minute drive to the Greek Gourmet in Naples, a favorite restaurant for “date night.” The restaurant is lined with kitsch murals of the Greek gods and all of the employees are members of an extended family who “lovingly” banter in Greek. Judge Sullivan is drawn to the calamari, the house Greek salad, and a glass of the house red. One trip, when the boys were about six months old, naptime and thus “date night” began around 9:15 a.m. Arriving at the restaurant at its 10:00 a.m. opening time, they ordered their favorite food, wine included. Eating quickly and back in the car, they were back at her parent’s house by 11:00 a.m. when the boys woke up and “date night” had come to an end.

With that kind of expertise and timing, you know Judge Sullivan will have no trouble with her biggest challenge of balancing her large and busy docket in Canyon County! Welcome to the Judiciary, Judge Jayme Sullivan, Magistrate of the Third Judicial District!